

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for cleaning welding torches, wherein a cleaning or wetting liquid is applied to the tip of the welding torch and the tip of the welding torch is subsequently exposed to an electromagnetic field for the contactless removal of foreign substances, wherein the welding torch is substantially in the same position during the application of the cleaning liquid or wetting liquid, apart from slight changes in position in the longitudinal direction of the welding torch and the subsequent exposure to an electromagnetic field.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A cleaning method according to claim 1, wherein said cleaning liquid is applied by immersing the tip of the welding torch into the cleaning liquid.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented) : A cleaning method according to claim 1, wherein said cleaning liquid is applied by spraying the tip of the welding torch with said cleaning liquid.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) : A cleaning method according to claim 1, wherein after the cleaning or wetting liquid is applied and foreign substances are removed, the steps of applying cleaning or wetting liquid is again applied and further foreign substances are removed electromagnetically electromagnetic spatter removal are repeated.

Claim 5-52 (Canceled).

Claim 53 (New) : A method for cleaning welding torches, comprising the steps of:

- (a) applying a cleaning or wetting liquid to a tip of a welding torch in a first position; and
- (b) subsequently exposing the tip to an electromagnetic

field in a second position immediately above the first position to contactlessly remove foreign substances.